

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A camera comprising:

a camera body having a substantially flat shape;

a photographing optical system configured to perform a photographing operation and accommodated in the camera body, the photographing optical system having a photographing optical axis in a direction perpendicular to a thickness direction of the camera body and a photographing object side plane, the photographing object side plane facing an object to be photographed when photographing; and

a release button configured to activate the photographing operation of the photographing optical system provided on a side surface of the camera body corresponding with the photographing object side plane of the photographing optical system.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 1, wherein the release button is provided on a right side part of the side surface of the camera body.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 1, wherein the photographing optical system includes a solid-state photographing element configured to convert an image of an object photographed into image data.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 3, further comprising a recording device configured to record the image data in a recording medium.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 3, further comprising a display device configured to display at least one of the image and the image data.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 3, further comprising a communication device configured to transmit the image data.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 6, wherein the communication device includes a wireless transmission device configured to transmit the image data to a remote terminal by wireless transmission.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 6, wherein the communication device includes an interface device configured to transmit the image data to a terminal via a cable.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 1, further comprising a wireless telephone device.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A camera comprising:

a camera body having a substantially flat shape;
a photographing optical system configured to perform a photographing operation and accommodated in the camera body, the photographing optical system having a photographing optical axis in a direction perpendicular to a thickness direction of the camera body and a photographing object side plane, the photographing object side plane facing an object to be photographed when photographing;

a release button configured to activate the photographing operation of the photographing optical system and provided on an upper surface of the camera body, the upper surface facing upward when the photographing optical axis of the photographing optical system is horizontal and the photographing object side plane of the photographing optical system is directed toward the object to be photographed; and

a grip protruding from a bottom surface of the camera body, the bottom surface facing downward when the photographing optical axis of the photographing optical system is horizontal and the photographing object side plane of the photographing optical system is directed toward the object.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 10, wherein:

the release button is provided on a right side part of the upper surface of the camera body; and

the grip protrudes from a right side part of the bottom surface of the camera body.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 10, wherein the grip is detachable from the camera body.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 10, wherein the grip is rotatably provided to a side edge of the camera body so as to be capable of moving to a side of the camera body.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 10, wherein the photographing optical system includes a solid-state photographing element configured to convert an image of an object photographed into image data.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 14, further comprising a recording device configured to record the image data in a recording medium.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 14, further comprising a display device configured to display at least one of the image and the image data.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 14, further comprising a communication device configured to transmit the image data.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 17, wherein the communication device includes a wireless transmission device configured to transmit the image data to a remote terminal by wireless transmission.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 17, wherein the communication device includes an interface device configured to transmit the image data to a terminal via a cable.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 10, further comprising a wireless telephone device.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): A camera comprising:

a camera body having a substantially flat shape;
a photographing optical system configured to perform a photographing operation and accommodated in the camera body; and
a plurality of release buttons each configured to activate the photographing operation of the photographing optical system.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 21, wherein:

the photographing optical system having a photographing optical axis in a direction perpendicular to a thickness direction of the camera body and a photographing object side plane, the photographing surface facing an object to be photographed when photographing;

the plurality of release buttons comprises first and second release buttons;

the first release button of the plurality of release buttons is provided on a side surface of the camera body corresponding with the photographing object side plane of the photographing optical system; and

the second release button of the plurality of release buttons is provided on an upper surface of the camera body, the upper surface facing upward when the photographing optical axis of the photographing optical system is horizontal and the photographing object side plane of the photographing optical system is directed toward the object.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 21, wherein the photographing optical system includes a solid-state photographing element configured to convert an image of an object photographed into image data.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 23, further comprising a recording device configured to record the image data in a recording medium.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 23, further comprising a display device configured to display at least one of the image and the image data.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 23, further comprising a communication device configured to transmit the image data.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 26, wherein the communication device includes a wireless transmission device configured to transmit the image data to a remote terminal by wireless transmission.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 26, wherein the communication device includes an interface device configured to transmit the image data to a terminal via a cable.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The camera of Claim 21, further comprising a wireless telephone device.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): A camera comprising:
a camera body having a substantially flat shape;
photographing means for performing a photographing operation, the photographing means being accommodated in the camera body and having a photographing optical axis in a direction perpendicular to a thickness direction of the camera body and a photographing object side plane, the photographing object side plane facing an object to be photographed when photographing; and

activating means for activating the photographing operation of the photographing means, the activating means being provided on a side surface of the camera body corresponding with the photographing object side plane of the photographing means.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): A camera comprising:
a camera body having a substantially flat shape;
photographing means for performing a photographing operation, the photographing means being accommodated in the camera body and having a photographing optical axis in a direction perpendicular to a thickness direction of the camera body and a photographing

object plane, the photographing object plane facing an object to be photographed when photographing;

activating means for activating the photographing operation of the photographing means, the activating means being provided on an upper surface of the camera body, the upper surface facing upward when the photographing optical axis of the photographing means is horizontal and the photographing object side plane of the photographing means is directed toward the object; and

gripping means for gripping the camera body, the gripping means protruding from a bottom surface of the camera body, the bottom surface facing downward when the photographing optical axis of the photographing means is horizontal and the photographing object side plane of the photographing means is directed toward the object.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A camera comprising:

a substantially flat body having a plane direction and a thickness direction, the substantially flat body being thinner in the thickness direction, the plane direction being substantially perpendicular to the thickness direction;

photographing means for performing a photographing operation, the photographing means being accommodated in the substantially flat body and having a photographing optical axis substantially parallel to the plane direction of the substantially flat body; and

a plurality of activating means each for activating the photographing operation of the photographing means, the plurality of activating means being provided on the substantially flat body in the plane and thickness directions, at least one of the plurality of activating means being provided so as to operate along the photographing optical axis.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): A method of making a camera, comprising the steps of:

forming the camera body having a substantially flat shape;

accommodating in the camera body a photographing optical system configured to perform a photographing operation such that a photographing optical axis thereof is arranged in a direction perpendicular to a thickness direction of the camera body; and

arranging a release button configured to activate the photographing operation of the photographing optical system at a side surface of the camera body corresponding with a photographing object side plane of the photographing optical system, the photographing object side plane facing an object to be photographed when photographing.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 33, wherein the arranging step comprises arranging the release button at a right side part of the side surface of the camera body.

Claim 35 (withdrawn): A method of making a camera, comprising the steps of:
forming a camera body having a substantially flat shape;
accommodating in the camera body a photographing optical system configured to perform a photographing operation such that a photographing optical axis thereof is arranged in a direction perpendicular to a thickness direction of the camera body;

arranging a release button configured to activate the photographing operation of the photographing optical system at an upper surface of the camera body, the upper surface facing upward when the photographing optical axis of the photographing optical system is horizontal and a photographing object side plane of the photographing optical system is directed toward an object to be photographed; and

providing a grip so as to protrude from a bottom surface of the camera body, the bottom surface facing downward when the photographing optical axis of the photographing optical system is horizontal and the photographing object side plane of the photographing optical system is directed toward the object.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 35, wherein:

the arranging step comprises arranging the release button at a right side part of the upper surface of the camera body; and

the providing step comprises providing the grip so as to protrude from a right side part of the bottom surface of the camera body.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 35, wherein the providing step comprises providing the grip so as to be detachable from the camera body.

Claim 38 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 35, wherein the providing step comprises rotatably providing the grip to a side edge of the camera body such that the grip is capable of moving to a side of the camera body.

Claim 39 (withdrawn): A portable apparatus comprising:
an apparatus body having a substantially flat shape;
a photographing optical system configured to perform a photographing operation and accommodated in the apparatus body, the photographing optical system having a photographing optical axis in a direction perpendicular to a thickness direction of the apparatus body and a photographing object side plane, the photographing object side plane facing an object to be photographed when photographing; and
a release button configured to activate the photographing operation of the photographing optical system and provided on a side surface of the apparatus body corresponding with the photographing object side plane of the photographing optical system.

Claim 40 (withdrawn): The portable apparatus of Claim 39, wherein the release button is provided on a right side part of the side surface of the apparatus body.

Claim 41 (withdrawn): The portable apparatus of Claim 39, wherein the photographing optical system includes a solid-state photographing element configured to convert an image of an object photographed into image data.

Claim 42 (withdrawn): The portable apparatus of Claim 41, further comprising a recording device configured to record the image data in a recording medium.

Claim 43 (withdrawn): The portable apparatus of Claim 41, further comprising a display device configured to display at least one of the image and the image data.

Claim 44 (withdrawn): The portable apparatus of Claim 41, further comprising a communication device configured to transmit the image data.

Claim 45 (withdrawn): The portable apparatus of Claim 44, wherein the communication device includes a wireless transmission device configured to transmit the image data to a remote terminal by wireless transmission.

Claim 46 (withdrawn): The portable apparatus of Claim 44, wherein the communication device includes an interface device configured to transmit the image data to a terminal via a cable.

Claim 47 (withdrawn): The portable apparatus of Claim 39, further comprising a wireless telephone device.

Claim 48 (withdrawn): A portable apparatus comprising:
an apparatus body having a substantially flat shape;
a photographing optical system configured to perform a photographing operation and accommodated in the apparatus body, the photographing optical system having a photographing optical axis in a direction perpendicular to a thickness direction of the apparatus body and a photographing object plane, the photographing object plane facing an object to be photographed when photographing;
a release button configured to activate the photographing operation of the photographing optical system and provided on an upper surface of the apparatus body, the upper surface facing upward when the photographing optical axis of the photographing

optical system is horizontal and the photographing object side plane of the photographing optical system is directed toward the object; and

a grip protruding from a bottom surface of the apparatus body, the bottom surface facing downward when the photographing optical axis of the photographing optical system is horizontal and the photographing object side plane of the photographing optical system is directed toward the object.

Claim 49 (withdrawn): The portable apparatus of Claim 48, wherein:

the release button is provided on a right side part of the upper surface of the apparatus body; and

the grip protrudes from a right side part of the bottom surface of the apparatus body.

Claim 50 (withdrawn): The portable apparatus of Claim 48, wherein the grip is detachable from the apparatus body.

Claim 51 (withdrawn): The portable apparatus of Claim 48, wherein the grip is rotatably provided to a side edge of the apparatus body so as to be capable of moving to a side of the apparatus body.

Claim 52 (withdrawn): The portable apparatus of Claim 48, wherein the photographing optical system includes a solid-state photographing element configured to convert an image of an object photographed into image data.

Claim 53 (withdrawn): The portable apparatus of Claim 52, further comprising a recording device configured to record the image data in a recording medium.

Claim 54 (withdrawn): The portable apparatus of Claim 52, further comprising a display device configured to display at least one of the image and the image data.

Claim 55 (withdrawn): The portable apparatus of Claim 52, further comprising a communication device configured to transmit the image data.

Claim 56 (withdrawn): The portable apparatus of Claim 55, wherein the communication device includes a wireless transmission device configured to transmit the image data to a remote terminal by wireless transmission.

Claim 57 (withdrawn): The portable apparatus of Claim 55, wherein the communication device includes an interface device configured to transmit the image data to a terminal via a cable.

Claim 58 (withdrawn): The portable apparatus of Claim 48, further comprising a wireless telephone device.

Claim 59 (currently amended): A portable apparatus comprising:
a substantially flat body having a plane direction and a thickness direction, the substantially flat body being thinner in the thickness direction, the plane direction being substantially perpendicular to the thickness direction;
a photographing optical system configured to perform a photographing operation and positioned in the substantially flat body such that the photographing optical system has a photographing optical axis substantially parallel to the plane direction of the substantially flat body; and
a plurality of release buttons each configured to activate the photographing operation of the photographing optical system, at least one of the plurality of release buttons being configured to operate along the photographing optical axis.

Claim 60 (previously presented): The portable apparatus of Claim 59, wherein:
the plurality of release buttons comprises a first and second release buttons; and
the first release button of the plurality of release buttons is provided on a side surface of the substantially flat body corresponding with a photographing object side plane of the photographing optical system, and the second release button of the plurality of release buttons is provided on an upper surface of the substantially flat body, the upper surface facing

upward when the photographing optical axis of the photographing optical system is horizontal and the photographing object side plane of the photographing optical system is directed toward the object.

Claim 61 (original): The portable apparatus of Claim 59, wherein the photographing optical system includes a solid-state photographing element configured to convert an image of an object photographed into image data.

Claim 62 (original): The apparatus of Claim 61, further comprising a recording device configured to record the image data in a recording medium.

Claim 63 (original): The apparatus of Claim 61, further comprising a display device configured to display at least one of the image and the image data.

Claim 64 (original): The apparatus of Claim 61, further comprising a communication device configured to transmit the image data.

Claim 65 (original): The apparatus of Claim 64, wherein the communication device includes a wireless transmission device configured to transmit the image data to a remote terminal by wireless transmission.

Claim 66 (original): The apparatus of Claim 64, wherein the communication device includes an interface device configured to transmit the image data to a terminal via a cable.

Claim 67 (original): The apparatus of Claim 59, further comprising a wireless telephone device.

Claim 68 (withdrawn): A portable apparatus comprising:
an apparatus body having a substantially flat shape;
photographing means for performing a photographing operation, the photographing means being accommodated in the apparatus body and having a photographing optical axis in a direction perpendicular to a thickness direction of the apparatus body and a photographing

object side plane, the photographing object side plane facing an object to be photographed when photographing; and

activating means for activating the photographing operation of the photographing means, the activating means being provided on a side surface of the apparatus body corresponding with the photographing object side plane of the photographing means.

Claim 69 (withdrawn): A portable apparatus comprising:

an apparatus body having a substantially flat shape;
photographing means for performing a photographing operation, the photographing means being accommodated in the apparatus body and having a photographing optical axis in a direction perpendicular to a thickness direction of the apparatus body and a photographing object side plane, the photographing object side plane facing an object to be photographed when photographing;

activating means for activating the photographing operation of the photographing means, the activating means being provided on an upper surface of the apparatus body, the upper surface facing upward when the photographing optical axis of the photographing means is horizontal and the photographing object side plane of the photographing means is directed toward the object; and

gripping means for gripping the apparatus body, the gripping means protruding from a bottom surface of the apparatus body, the bottom surface facing downward when the photographing optical axis of the photographing means is horizontal and the photographing object side plane of the photographing means is directed toward the object.-69 (withdrawn)

Claim 70 (currently amended): A portable apparatus comprising:

a substantially flat body having a plane direction and a thickness direction, the substantially flat body being thinner in the thickness direction, the plane direction being substantially perpendicular to the thickness direction;

photographing means for performing a photographing operation, the photographing means being positioned in the substantially flat body such that the photographing means has a photographing optical axis substantially parallel to the plane direction of the substantially flat body; and

a plurality of activating means each for activating the photographing operation of the photographing means, the plurality of activating means being provided on the substantially flat body in the plane and thickness directions, at least one of the plurality of activating means being provided so as to operate along the photographing optical axis.

Claim 71 (withdrawn): A method of making a portable apparatus, comprising the steps of:

forming the apparatus body having a substantially flat shape;
accommodating in the apparatus body a photographing optical system configured to perform a photographing operation such that a photographing optical axis thereof is arranged in a direction perpendicular to a thickness direction of the apparatus body; and
arranging a release button configured to activate the photographing operation of the photographing optical system at a side surface of the apparatus body corresponding with a photographing object side plane of the photographing optical system, the photographing object side plane facing an object to be photographed when photographing.

Claim 72 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 71, wherein the arranging step comprises arranging the release button at a right side part of the side surface of the apparatus body.

Claim 73 (withdrawn): A method of making a portable apparatus, comprising the steps of:

forming an apparatus body having a substantially flat shape;

accommodating in the apparatus body a photographing optical system configured to perform a photographing operation such that a photographing optical axis thereof is arranged in a direction perpendicular to a thickness direction of the apparatus body;

arranging a release button configured to activate the photographing operation of the photographing optical system at an upper surface of the apparatus body, the upper surface facing upward when the photographing optical axis of the photographing optical system is horizontal and a photographing object side plane of the photographing optical system is directed toward the photographing object, the photographing object side plane facing an object to be photographed when photographing; and

providing a grip so as to protrude from a bottom surface of the apparatus body, the bottom surface facing downward when the photographing optical axis is horizontal and the photographing object side plane is directed toward the object.

Claim 74 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 73, wherein:

the arranging step comprises arranging the release button at a right side part of the upper surface of the apparatus body; and

the providing step comprising providing the grip so as to protrude from a right side part of the bottom surface of the apparatus body.

Claim 75 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 73, wherein the providing step comprises providing the grip so as to be detachable from the apparatus body.

Claim 76 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 73, wherein the providing step comprises rotatably providing the grip to a side edge of the apparatus body such that the grip is capable of moving to a side of the apparatus body.